

## THE WESTIN CHICAGO RIVER NORTH

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### **James Wescoe Named Executive Chef at The Westin Chicago River North**

#### **Wescoe to Oversee Dining Experience at Ember Grille, Hana Lounge & All Events at Premier Hotel**

CHICAGO –October 14, 2008 – The Westin Chicago River North is pleased to announce James Wescoe as executive chef of the 424-room hotel. A talented chef with a decade of experience, Wescoe is now leading the culinary team, and placing great emphasis on the food and beverage offerings for its banquets, group functions and private events. The new executive chef will have a hand in all culinary execution and menus at Ember Grille, the hotel's signature restaurant, and Hana Lounge, which serves up award-winning sushi.

"We are delighted to welcome Chef Wescoe to our culinary team," said Peter Simoncelli, general manager. "He is a gifted culinary professional that brings a remarkable gastronomic resume and outstanding management skills to The Westin Chicago River North."

Prior to joining The Westin Chicago River North team, Wescoe held various posts at hotels and resorts in Florida, most recently as executive banquet chef at Loews Royal Pacific Resort at Universal Studios, where he managed a staff of 30 and facilitated all banquet food operations for meetings, special events and VIP functions. Previous positions include garde manger chef, banquet sous chef at The Westin Diplomat Resort and Spa, executive sous chef at Lago Mar Resort and Club and chef de cuisine at The Biltmore Hotel-Coral Gables. Wescoe has superior food production skills, an extensive menu development background and a proven track record with successfully controlling food and labor budgets.

Wescoe received an associate's degree from The Culinary Institute of America in New York.

For further information or reservations please call (312) 744-1900 or visit [www.westinchicago.com](http://www.westinchicago.com).

Overlooking the Chicago River at 320 North Dearborn Street, The Westin Chicago River North is centrally located in the heart of Chicago's business and theatre districts and steps from Millennium Park, fabulous Michigan Avenue shopping and great restaurants. The hotel's 424 rooms and suites offer beautiful skyline views and feature Westin's legendary Heavenly Bed® and invigorating Heavenly Bath®. The recently refreshed Westin Executive Club® Level showcases refurbished guestrooms with iMAC computers, iPod docking stations, 32-inch flat-screen televisions, complimentary high-speed Internet access and ample desk space. The new Westin Executive Club® Lounge offers complimentary Wi-Fi, 42-inch flat-screen televisions and more. For distinctive dining, there is Ember Grille, Hana Lounge and Kamehachi Sushi Bar. Other services and amenities include WestinWorkout® Powered by Reebok, massage therapy, concierge services and a state-of-the-art business center.

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